Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-079
Thursday
23 April 1992

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FBIS-LAT-92-079 23 April 1992

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Peru

Maximo San Roman, who was elected constitutional president on 21 April by the dissolved Congress, states that "two chiefs of state cannot coexist in my country" and commits himself to the removal of Alberto Fujimori, who he believes is a "dictator," TELAM reports. In an interview with Lima radio, San Roman denounces President Fujimori's schedule for reforms and says that recognizing the schedule would be tantamount to "legitimizing a dictator." San Roman also announces the immediate plans of his government to call for a national dialogue and have "special powers" invested in the executive branch so it can "modernize and reform the state." In a report on Madrid TV, San Roman expresses his intention to appoint his parallel government and says he will designate a prime minister in the next few days.

Lima TV reports that the OAS delegation continues to meet with numerous influential political, economic, and social groups to assess the situation in Peru. The delegation has met with representatives of various political groups including Change 90, Solidarity and Democracy Movement, United Left, Popular Action Party, and Liberty Movement. The delegation later met with Catholic Church representatives and labor and trade union officials. Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell, head of the delegation, says the delegation's work remains unfinished, and "this is no time to give final results."

Haiti

Information Minister Gerard Bissainte says the government is prepared to negotiate a solution to the country's crisis only with political parties "that do not receive dicates from foreigners," Port-au-Prince radio reports. Bissainte also states that elections will not be held until the "unfair, illegal, and cruel" embargo is lifted. Meanwhile, Senate President Dejean Belizaire, who is also head of the parliamentary committee to find a solution to the crisis, is calling the executive branch and the Army to a meeting within the next 24 to 48 hours. Belizaire invites the officials to "look within themselves" to favor dialogue as a means to finding a solution that will prevent "damage, slaughter, or injury."

Argentina

The government "deplores and categorically rejects" the coup d'etat in Peru, but recognizes Alberto Fujimori as president "without doubt," EFE reports. Deputy Foreign Minister Petrella says, however, that the government "is maintaining fluid contact" with Peruvian First Vice President San Roman and is in contact with members of the Peruvian Congress dissolved on 5 April.

Economy Minister Cavallo addressed the nation on the state of the economy over Buenos Aires radio and TV.

Guatemala

The Army categorically rejects the possibility of a coup in the country, Defense Minister Garcia Samayoa says in an EL GRAFICO report.

The Constitutional Court denied a petition for habeas corpus presented by Zacapa Mayor Vargas Estradas, thus clearing the way for his extradition to the U.S. on drug charges, PRENSA LIBRE reports.

Cuba

Commentary Notes Bush's Remarks on Embargo

FL2204124792 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 21 Apr 92

["Our Opinion" commentary by Ariel Larramendi]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush sometimes disconcerts people with the things he says. One wonders when he is speaking to influence voters and when he is speaking to set defined policies in the international or national sphere, or in relations between his country and our own.

A few hours ago, the U.S. President sang the praises of international free trade, saying there should be no barriers to international free trade and that progress will consequently be the hallmark of the competing countries. Apparently the U.S. President is fully aware of the significance of that type of trade relationship between countries, relations without restrictions or discrimination about things having nothing to do with trade itself.

Nevertheless, in speaking of our country on 18 April, the U.S. President announced that he is going to strengthen the embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba, claiming he wants to contribute to what he said will be democratic and peaceful change in this country. Bush has asked the Treasury Department to deny access to U.S. ports to all ships trading with Cuba unless they have a special license. President Bush also asked the Treasury Department to permit Cubans living in the United States to send humanitarian products to Cuba via charter flights directly from Florida to Havana.

On the one hand, President Bush is hardening his rhetoric toward Cuba. On the other, he opposes sections of Congressman Robert Torricelli's bill entitled, "Bill for Cuban Democracy, 1992" because, among other things, it attempts to impose U.S. legislation on countries trading with Cuba or subsidiaries of U.S. companies (?in) countries that have relations with our country.

Regardless of the fact that the U.S. President does not need legislation such as Robert Torricelli's bill or amendments like Connie Mack's to intensify the embargo against Cuba, that allusion at this particular moment in the race toward a new presidential term is symptomatic. Observers in various Latin American countries wonder if President Bush's words are meant mainly for the ears of voters of Cuban descent, or whether they are really intended to worsen, and cast an even darker shadow over the relations between our two countries.

Along that line, the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR affirms that Bush's diatribes against nations that trade with Cuba are cause for concern, and it mentions that these nations include Mexico and Canada, countries that are currently attempting to sign a free trade agreement with the United States. In that regard, EXCELSIOR believes that despite the harshness of the admonition, it is very unlikely that the countries alluded to—Mexico and Canada—will modify their trade policy toward Cuba. Bush himself leaves a loophole by mentioning a license issued in a discretionary manner by the Treasury Department.

The EXCELSIOR article states the opinion that the U.S. embargo against Cuba, which has been in effect for more than 30 years now, has produced no practical results favorable to Washington. The reality of things lead one to assume that to hear about more serious issues in U.S. politics, we will have to wait until the election results are in. It is as simple as that.

Communique Alerts Public to Training Flights

FL2304004192 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Apr 92

["Text" of a communique issued by the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, Minfar, in Havana on 22 Apr]

[Text] Beginning Thursday, 23 April, and running through Saturday, 25 April, Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force [DAAFAR] combat planes will conduct daytime and nighttime training flights across the country with the goal of maintaining the combat preparedness of its troops. The population may hear explosions as a result of the sound barrier being broken.

Recycled Materials Used for Defense Materiel

FL2204215992 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1936 GMT 22 92

[Text] Workshops and civilian organizations in Manzanillo are strengthening the defense potential of the region by taking advantage of surplus materials to produce several types of irregular combat items. A local construction materials enterprise is using remnants and scraps to produce fragmentation mine fuses, mine detector rods, obstacles, booby traps such as urchins [erizos], broad bladed knives, and throwing stars.

The workshops of the Sugar Industry Ministry in Manzanillo are producing the outer casements of antitank and antipersonnel mines, which have been rated highly effective in tests, as well as tools for the construction of civil defense tunnels such as picks, mining pikes, and shovels.

The defense work being done by members of the National Association of Innovators and Efficiency Experts and the Youth Labor Brigades is outstanding. They are involved in this task as part of the emulation process sponsored by the Cuban Workers Federation.

Havana Militia Meeting Sets Goals for 1992

FL2304015892 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0104 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] The Havana militia's goal is to finish 1992 with positive results in the construction of public fortifications and in preparing everyone for war. That was

disclosed during a meeting of Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] officers held in Bejucal in the presence of Brigadier General Guillermo Pena Cabis, Havana chief of staff.

Accompanied by military leaders' representatives from the municipalities of the province, Pena Cabis attended a surprise enemy air raid exercise and observed the way the workers of the biological production center responded to the aggression. Also [word indistinct] FAR officers spoke with construction workers on civil defense fortifications, with soldiers of the Youth Labor Army, and with ham radio operators who are training to confront the enemy.

Antidrug Talks With Venezuela Begin 22 Apr

FL2204204092 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Negotiations to form a joint Cuban-Venezuelan commission to fight drug trafficking began today at the Justice Ministry. Here is Belkis Joglar with the report.

[Joglar] Cuban Justice Minister Carlos Amat and Enrique Rios [name as heard], who is a minister of state and the chairman of Venezuela's national commission for combating the improper use of drugs, presided over the opening of the talks. The Venezuelan minister conveyed greetings from Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez to the delegates attending thw meeting. Speaking of Cuba, he said the following.

[Begin Rios recording] Well, I think that for the people of Cuba—and this is my very personal opinion, not speaking as a minister—I think it is one more opening by the Republic of Cuba to the world. I was very pleased to see the opening in tourism, because Cuba has traditionally been one American country that is a tourist destination. There is also the opening in the sphere of crime prevention, in the struggle against crime. That is a wonderful opening. There is also the social opening involving exchanges in social programs and projects. We have a very big social project in Venezuela that we are going to (?bring to) Cuba, and you people have great accomplishments in the field of health, which we will take back with us to Venezuela. That means that Latin American brotherhood still exists, that the roots—which remain the same—are still there. [end recording]

[Joglar] During its stay in Cuba, the Venezuelan group will meet with Cuban authorities, visit Interior Ministry units and health centers, and hold talks with representatives of the Republic's General Customs Office. Also on the agenda is the signing of an agreement to fight drugs.

Visiting Komsomol Delegation Pays Homage to Lenin

FL2304001492 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The Komsomol delegation, headed by (Vladimir Bandarchuv), that is visiting Cuba today paid homage to Vladimir Ilich Lenin at the park named after him in the outskirts of Havana. After placing a wreath and conducting an honor guard, the representatives of the 1961 300 Komsomol delegation, which worked in Cuba in 1961, planted the pine tree of friendship number 122. The ceremony was attended by Russian Embassy advisers (Oleg Smoulsky) and Boris Ivanoshenko; Lenin Park Director Juan Herrera; and other officials of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples.

The visitors received a commendation in recognition of their efforts to strengthen peace and friendship among the peoples on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the creation of this renowned recreational center in Havana.

Hoarding of Shipping Containers Creates Burden

FL2204174792 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Report by Luis Orlando Pantoja]

[Text] What an absurd example of idleness for an economy such as ours, which is in a state of siege! At the end of March, there were 2,016 shipping containers still out of circulation throughout Cuba. That means one out of every four containers was out of commission. The worst thing is that they have been out of circulation for more than a year, and some for as long as two years, in the possession of agencies and enterprises, in parking lots, streets, and at the sites of investment projects. The containers are not unloaded, and people almost always wait until a construction project is completed before emptying the containers of their contents. We really have a terrible time getting them back.

That implies the loss of the container and a burden for the country. Modern containers are not small warehouses, nor the property of anyone in particular. Their purpose is to render more dynamic and effective the shipment of cargo that Cuba's economy requires. They should be rotated constantly in an uninterrupted flow.

That is what happens in today's world everywhere, except here in Cuba. Rules exist—abroad, I mean—obliging the client receiving these services to return the container within 72 hours, under penalty of having to pay between $17 and $35 per day for every additional day the client keeps the container. The enterprise Cuflex [expansion unknown] itself, which owns the containers in Cuba, contrasts the dynamic response it gets when a foreign firm rents from it with the sluggishness of the Cuban agencies in this respect.

The paralysis of this means of transporting cargo has become a vicious circle. More than once we have had to rent containers abroad to bring merchandise to Cuba because our own containers were being held irresponsibly by enterprises that fail to return them. That represents a burden to Cuba of no less than $5 million annually, $5 million annually! [repeats]

But the incredible thing is that despite the fact that this integrated cargo system has been in effect for 16 years now, efficient mechanisms for regulating and penalizing people in some way for keeping the containers too long do not exist in Cuba. The immaturity of many enterprises when they count on the nation's benevolence and paternalism, and the ease with which government resources are used with impunity, once again comes to light. To have this happen now, in the midst of the special period, is simply even more unforgivable.

It is true that because of the unforseeable peculiarities of our foreign trade, we are often forced to take advantage of a particular situation and bring large volumes of merchandise to Cuba well in advance of the time we will need it. It is also true that the application of container technology in Cuba has not always been backed up by a proportionate development of new, modern storage capabilities in the domestic economy. Even so, there is a great deal of laxity when it comes time to return the containers—as well as irresponsibility, I might add.

The enterprise that owns the containers, Cuflex, keeps a kind of list of delinquent entities that have these containers. However, some enterprises go so far as to move the containers from one branch to another to serve internal purposes, as if the containers were basic assets belonging to that enterprise, as if the containers were their property. Cuflex has even lost track of a few containers.

For example, in March the Cubanacan Corporation had in its possession 498 containers; Uneca [Union of Caribbean Construction Enterprises] had 145; the Ministry of Communications had 190; the Ministry of Public Health had 102; and Intur [National Institute of Tourism] had 87. Those are just a few examples. We do not have enough time to list all the enterprises holding these containers as if they owned them.

It is important to explain that many of the containers used by the minibrigades and other organizations as warehouses, and even as the organizations' property, were sold to them because the containers could not be used for moving cargo. Nevertheless, Eduardo Denis, director of the enterprise that owns the containers, says that in the capital alone, there must be some 250 of these containers that, despite the fact that they are in optimal condition for transporting cargo, are being used for other purposes.

Please, let there be a resolution to this disorder for once and for all, and not [words indistinct] so we will not, in the future, need to repeat that mocking childhood imprecation: Hey, you, do not take what does not belong to you!

Changes Scheduled in Science School Programs

FL2204154692 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Effective this school year and the following one, a set of changes has been scheduled in the educational plans and programs of the pre-university vocational institutes for exact sciences. Changes are also scheduled for educational organization and the enrollment system. The purpose of these changes, according to information received, is to strengthen the polytechnical and labor character of the education given in those centers. Other reasons are to strengthen the application of the principle of linking work and study, and to strengthen the relationship of the classroom subjects to production and to life in general.

It was made clear that this does not mean that these educational centers are to abandon their essential objective, which is to reinforce the basic sciences. Rather, they are to make the general training of the students more complete. Among the changes that will come into effect are an increase in agricultural tasks to 30 hours every two weeks. The hours have been increased at the request of the students and teachers. There will also be a decrease in class time, without affecting reinforcement of the basic sciences, and the manual work schedule will be combined with study time.

Food Production Reaches New Efficiency Levels

PA2204202092 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1330 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Miguel Cabrera commentary]

[Text] The U.S. propaganda against Cuba tries to depict the national food situation as being in poor condition, but an overall analysis shows just the opposite is true. Havana, with 2.2 million people, is undoubtedly one of the most well-supplied cities because it is the most populated region on the island.

Recent reports indicate that during the first quarter of 1992, Havana residents received 20 percent more agricultural products than they received during the same period last year. One should bear in mind that these products were grown only in Havana Province, a relatively small territory. That province has benefited from the best agricultural techniques and the efforts of thousands of workers who form the so-called agriculture contingents or [word indistinct] workers and intellectuals. These workers leave their usual jobs to join agricultural programs for no less than 15 days.

The supply of food to the capital is not limited to its more than 2 million residents. In addition, supplies were provided to 113 hospitals, 400 day care centers, six children's food factories, over 200 schools, and 500 workers' dining centers, among other enterprises and institutions.

According to the last edition of the Cuban newspaper TRABAJADORES, meeting the enormous demand was achieved with 64 percent of agricultural production in the first quarter of this year. That production does not only supply the Cuban capital but also the Province of Havana, which has a population of 700,000.

If the enemies of the revolution hoped Cuban agriculture was going to suffer because of the difficulties with fuel

and fertilizers and the drastic reduction in the importation of machinery and spare parts, reality shows the opposite. Without implementing capitalist measures, as is in vogue today throughout the world, Cuba has reached levels of efficiency that have never been achieved before.

Havana Agrarian Contingent Surpasses Goals

FL2304015992 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The Juan Delgado Contingent, which is made up of workers from all sections of the People's Government of Havana, has received an award for the 100,000 quintals of vegetables harvested this year. Victorino Lemus, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba of Havana, presented the award in the area of the Batabano Miscellaneous Crops Enterprise, where the contingent's camp is located. Eighty founding members of the contingent were awarded with certificates and medals.

This agrarian contingent tends more than 17 caballerias, which, thanks to their care, surpassed the projected yield: more than 5,000 quintals per caballeria. Because of its quality, the produce has never been rejected by any market.

The efficiency of the Juan Delgado Contingent goes far beyond what we can imagine. For example, what they have produced this year is half of the amount attained by the whole Batabano enterprise in 1990.

Haiti

Deputies Unable To Reach Decision During Session

FL2204184092 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Report on Chamber of Deputies session on 21 April; italicized passages are in French]

[Excerpts] Yesterday's session in the Chamber of Deputies ended with no decision reached on the points the deputies discussed. Many observers predicted that the session might end without the deputies reaching any concrete resolution on the proposals made to disentangle Haiti from its current crisis. That is a popular opinion based on the fact that since the Court of Cassation announced its decision, none of the sessions in the Chamber of Deputies have resulted in any concrete plan. In addition to the difficulties of not having enough deputies present to conduct a normal session, observers note that the remarks being made during recent sessions are becoming increasingly ridiculous.

Like most of the sessions held these last days, Tuesday's meeting did not allow the deputies to reach any decision even though, according to the agenda, they were scheduled to discuss the propositions [corrects himself] the positions that the Chamber should take following the Court of Cassation's decision to declare the 23 February Washington Agreement unconstitutional. There were many types of discussions during the session. In the beginning, the National Front for Change and Democracy Parliamentary Bloc [BPFNCD] proposed that the Chamber of Deputies attack the supreme court's decision as a violation of the country's Constitution. Deputy Rindal Pierre-Canel asked that this proposal be voted on as a matter of urgency, but the idea did not pass because of the opposition of the CDN [Nationalistic Democrats Corps] group, especially of Deputy Gabriel Sanon, who spoke in support of the Court of Cassation's decision. Sanon described the BPFNCD proposal as worthless. [passage omitted]

Another remark made in yesterday's session came from Port-de-Paix Deputy Josue LaFrance who asserted that if he staged a civil coup d'etat, he would dissolve the parliament as a means of expelling all parliamentarians who are traitors to the country. He said he would even imprison them. The president of the Chamber of Deputies, Dr. Alexandre Medard, then found it necessary to intervene and calm LaFrance. But as LaFrance continued to speak along those same lines, Medard was obliged to withdraw that deputy's right to speak.

[Begin recording] [LaFrance] *I, Josue LaFrance, will stage a civil coup d'etat, will dispel all those who wish to sell the homeland, and will proclaim the dissolution of this* [word indistinct] *chamber.*

[Medard, interrupting] *Deputy LaFrance, Deputy LaFrance,* [words indistinct] *Listen. Deputy Josue LaFrance.* [words indistinct] *Deputy Josue LaFrance, one moment. Quiet down, please.*

[LaFrance] *May I continue?*

[Medard] *You may.*

[LaFrance] *Well, what I have to say is that this morning I was truly astonished. To continue my statement, I want to say that I found myself in the presence of all these turd parliamentarians [toutes ces merdes de parlementaires]....*

[Medard, interrupting] *Deputy Josue LaFrance, this is not admissible.*

[LaFrance] *It is not admissible?*

[Medard] *Deputy LaFrance, this office withdraws its permission for you to speak.*

[LaFrance] *All right, all right....* [end recording] [passage omitted]

Minister Says No Elections Until Embargo Lifted

FL2204234192 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] New Information Minister Gerard Bissainte has begun a series of visits to the private media in the capital. Gerard Bissainte is attempting to reassure journalists regarding the provisional government's respect for freedom of speech.

On the political side, the government's spokesman says those who support the embargo are cowardly. He recalls that the current government does not intend to hold elections until the embargo is lifted. Minister Gerard Bissainte also said the government was prepared to talk only with the political parties that do not receive dictates from foreigners, and he advocated a national solution to the crisis. Let us listen to him:

[Begin recording] [Bissainte] We must work together. I am ready to discuss with any political party [word indistinct] that the political parties are Haitian and defend Haitian interests with Haitians and do not come with dictates from a foreign organization. With that condition, I am ready to talk with any political parties and I am asking for talks. If the talks do not occur, it is because they political leaders do not want the talks. I am repeating it: Any political party that comes with foreign dictates, foreign orders, or some foreign conditions by imagining that they are well supported abroad, that I will give them some considerations; I say no! [Word indistinct] on this embargo that has been imposed on us illegally, nastily, cruelly, and by people without a heart and who do not understand anything about this country's problems. We cannot hold elections under such conditions. When we succeed in lifting this embargo, I think [word indistinct], then we will hold elections because [word indistinct]. No one wants to keep power. The current executive simply wants to solve a problem that it was asked to solve; meaning to be able to regularize things, to lift the embargo that was unfairly imposed on us by some Haitians who are cowards and never had the courage to face their Haitian brothers by themselves.

They are asking for foreign help because they are cowards. If they really want what is good for the country, they can come talk to us. Therefore, we will not hold elections as long as this unfair, illegal, and cruel embargo is imposed on us. [end recording].

Belizaire Calls For New Negotiations in 48 Hours

FL2204230592 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 2000 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Senate President Dejean Belizaire, also president of the parliamentary committee charged with finding a solution to the Haitin crisis that is acceptable to the current executive and the Army, has invited those two institutions to meet within the next 24 to 48 hours.

Accompanied by four other members of the parliamentary committee, Senator Belizaire read a message to the Senate that literally blamed those who are obsessed and blind by their personal interests. He has invited the officials to look within themselves to favor dialogue in order to reach a solution without damage, slaughter, or injury.

Larossiliere Says Agreement 'Out of the Question'

FL2204232092 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in Creole 2100 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Senator Larossiliere says he feels optimistic about the meeting that has been called. He also said the Washington agreement was out of the question for the meeting.

In his statements to our correspondent, Senator Larossileire said he was not God and did not know what would take place tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. [passage omitted].

Solution Will Be 'Imposed' If Not Soon Found

FL2204233292 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 2000 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] A solution to the Haitian crisis must be found by next week or one will be imposed upon us. Anse-a-Veau independent Deputy Frantz Robert Conde made that statement when our correspondent questioned him about the activities of the interparliamentary committee in charge of negotiating with the executive and the Haitian Army.

Deputy Monde declined to indicate who would impose a solution, suggesting to journalists that they figure it out for themselves.

The parliamentary recess is just a few days away.

El Salvador

Deputy Minister Calls FMLN Trip 'Propaganda'

PA2304042292 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 21 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister General Juan Orlando Zepeda described as propaganda and demagoguery the visit by FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] leaders to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali.

The military officer said the biggest violators of the peace agreements are the rebels because they have not all concentrated at the 15 points that were agreed on, they have not turned over all their weapons, and they are still causing land problems.

Zepeda said it is logical to believe that the FMLN leaders' visit to the United Nations was to criticize the government for being the sole violators of the peace agreements.

Zepeda said Copaz [National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace] is making suggestions and recommendations to both sides regarding the violations that have been reported.

He said there are organizations in Morazan, La Union, and Chalatenango Departments that are preventing mayors and judges from exercising authority over their jurisdictions.

Zepeda criticized the FMLN for carrying out public security duties with their organizations, something that should only be done by the National Police.

The deputy defense minister said Copaz cannot force the FMLN to fulfill the agreements, so he is reporting the FMLN violations and is appealing to the people to understand who is violating the agreements.

He said there are people inside and outside the Armed Forces who are carrying out acts of vandalism and who are turned over to the courts when captured.

The deputy defense minister made the statements during an award ceremony for Navy members who installed a network of electrical cables to provide energy to the Fonseca Gulf islands.

Guatemala

Defense Minister Dismisses Possibility of Coup

PA2204234592 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 22 Apr 92 p6

[Text] The Army categorically rejects the possibility of a coup in the country, says the national defense minister, General Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa. When asked to comment on remarks by some politicians that media criticism could prompt a coup, he replied: Absolutely not, flatly rebuffing the idea. The Army is aware of its constitutional and institutional role and that it is subordinate to the authority of the people, who elected the democratic course that is to be followed, he said.

Garcia Samayoa denied the Army is harassing students at San Marcos University and said the matter has been distorted. He said he had the opportunity to meet with members of the Association of University Students and would so do again because the Army has no plans against the university community.

One would logically have to analyze what can be gained by that kind of action, and the answer is nothing, he said. He added that the Army's intentions are clear. It truly seeks to create a rule of law, which makes it possible to enjoy those tremendous things called liberty and peace.

That is why, he concluded, instead of confrontation or polarization we should seek reconciliation and understanding, which is what the Army is trying to do and will do.

Court Affirms Zacapa Mayor's Extradition to U.S.

PA2204230192 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 21 Apr 92 p 2

[Text] The extradition of Zacapa Mayor Arnoldo Vargas Estrada, charged with seven counts of drug trafficking in the United States, was confirmed when the Constitutional Court denied the petition for habeas corpus presented by the accused to the Fourth Court of Appeals.

In its resolution, the Fourth Court of Appeals accepted the extradition case being pursued by a federal court in the United States. The case had been declared illegal by the Sixth Criminal Arraignment Court.

The Constitutional Court's resolution states that the Fourth Court of Appeals acted within its legal powers when it accepted the extradition. That is why Vargas Estrada's habeas corpus petition is being denied.

The aforementioned resolution was issued on 17 February 1992. The Fourth Court of Appeals revoked the decision by the Sixth Criminal Arraignment Court, which had previously ruled that the extradition was illegal.

The Fourth Court of Appeals thereby ruled the extradition legal. The accused did not accept the decision and presented a writ of habeas corpus to the Supreme Court. The petition was denied.

Vargas Estrada appealed to the Constitutional Court as a last resort but it also denied the petition. Now that the courts reviewing the case have completed all the legal proceedings, the executive branch must issue the corresponding agreement authorizing Vargas Estrada's extradition to the United States.

Oscar Humberto Lopez Lemus, Sixth Criminal Arraignment Court judge, was responsible for ruling the extradition illegal. He is now facing criminal proceedings by the Attorney General's Office accusing him of obstruction of justice in the extradition case.

Vargas Estrada also faces two suits in the Second Arraignment Court of Zacapa for possession of pharmacological products and narcotics.

Army To Withdraw From Hunapu Task Force in May

PA2204165592 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Government Minister Fernando Hurtado Prem announced on 20 April that the Army will withdraw from the so-called Hunapu Task Force in May when the force is reorganized. The interior minister explained that ever since the so-called Hunapu plan was implemented, it was intended that the presence of military troops in the security corps would only be transitory so as to reinforce the police during what was termed a critical period. However, the Army has fulfilled its support mission to the Hunapu brigades. In May, the force will only be made up of units belonging to the National and Treasury Police—both civilian security forces that are under the Government Ministry, Hurtado Prem said.

The interior minister gave assurances that there is no intention to militarize the security forces under his jurisdiction and added that it is only a coincidence that out of a total of 1,000 who receive training at the National Police academy, 30 percent are former soldiers. The government minister gave assurances that there is no intention to disband the Hunapu Task Force, which will be reduced when the Mobile Military Police withdraw.

Nicaragua

Peasant Uprising Stops Highway Traffic in North

PA2304021292 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] An uprising involving thousands of peasants began three days ago in northern Nicaragua. The peasants are demanding land and financing from the Chamorro administration and have blocked traffic on the Pan-American Highway, denying access to the region's most important cities.

About 4,000 peasants identified as the Mixed Bunch—made up of demobilized troops from the Nicaraguan Resistance, recontras; and demobilized Army troops and Sandinist Police, recompas—rebelled at the entrance to several cities, EL NUEVO DIARIO reported today.

Commander Narciso, staff member of the Mixed Bunch, said that they will keep blocking the streets until the government complies with agreements signed with the National Armed Self-Defense Movement, made up of recontras, recompas, and peasants who have demanded land throughout history.

(Frank Menzel), a leader of the peasant movement, said that in Nicaragua governments only understand pressure applied by the use of force. The peasants are demanding legalization of government-distributed land, materials to build homes, bank financing, and debt rescheduling.

Some 500 peasants occupied several farms in northern Ocotal, at the Honduran border; others occupied four farms in Esteli Department, about 130 km north of Managua.

Daniel Ortega, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], said that the peasants have united to demand land and financing because they are unemployed and hungry, and that could lead to social ferment.

The opposition leader said the FSLN will continue to struggle for national stability, but not when people might go hungry. We want a project producing real benefits for the people, he added.

Meanwhile, the government has taken no coercive actions against the highway occupations, because it is giving priority to the Cerro Negro volcanic eruption that left 50,000 homeless two weeks ago.

Radio Libertad Communique Reports Closure

PA2304025592 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Communique issued by Radio Libertad in Jinotepe; date not given]

[Text] Nicaraguan brothers, we again address you to denounce a flagrant human rights violation—that of freedom of speech—by the Jinotepe Mayor's Office, which arbitrarily ordered the suspension of Radio Libertad transmissions.

At 1000 on 8 April, Julio Cesar Aviles, legal adviser to Jinotepe Mayor Aura Lila Aguilar, Judge Mario Briceno, and radio technician Ramon Portocarrero showed up at Radio Libertad's transmission facilities in south Jinotepe, to deliver an attachment order issued against Radio Libertad. The station was transmitting revolutionary music at the time.

The legal adviser, in an arrogant and illegal action, pulled out our transmitter's wires and took us off the air. That is the only reason we are not transmitting. This attack was not only a violation of Radio Libertad's freedom of speech, but also that of the Nicaraguan people.

We demand respect for the law and Constitution.

We demand respect for a rental agreement signed between the mayoral office and Cosor [Radio Broadcasting Media Company], a legally established corporation.

We thank our humble and long-suffering people of Nicaragua for their valuable solidarity and urge them to join Cosor in waging this new phase of the struggle in defense of freedom of speech.

We are sure that reason and truth will prevail over injustice and lies. Radio Libertad is fighting to bring us the truth.

Panama

Authorities Investigate Police Corruption Case

PA2204185492 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 22 Apr 92 p 1a

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Panamanian authorities have arrested a gang consisting of members of the National Police, Immigration, the Judicial Technical Police, and the Assistant Prosecutor's Office, who stormed a foreigner's residence pretending to be carrying out a raid.

At a news conference attended by the chiefs of the organizations involved in the assault, it was explained that the assailants—using police patrol cars and Prosecutor's Office vehicles—arrived at the home of a Peruvian woman located in the San Antonio neighborhood and took $20,000 in cash and $30,000 worth of jewelry.

Peruvian and Ecuadoran citizens are lodged at the residence. Two members of the police—including a lieutenant—remain under arrest and three suspects are being questioned.

National Police Director Oswaldo Fernandez said that a corporal and the lieutenant admitted taking part in the attack. The official said that his institution does not "patronize shameless behavior or cover up deficiencies" for anyone.

The arrest took place following several weeks of work by organizations that investigate assaults on foreigners visiting Panama, Fernandez explained.

So far only $500 has been recovered that had been paid to the police corporal for his part in the attack.

The investigation has revealed that an immigration official supplied the initial information on foreigners staying at the assaulted home.

Editorial Denounces Corruption

PA2204190992 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 22 Apr 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Corruption in the Police: Who Can Save Us?"]

[Text] Five men, members of the National Police, the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ], and the Assistant Prosecutor's Office, staged a robbery at a residence in the San Antonio neighborhood during the early morning hours of 20 April. The men stole $50,000 in cash and jewelry. Two of them have been arrested, both are members of the National Police and one of them is an officer. The announcement was made by National Police Chief Oswaldo Fernandez himself. Fernandez conceded that there is corruption in the institution, but said that efforts are being made to stop it. "We will not tolerate any more shameless men," said Fernandez in a tone intended to be convincing, but which the reporters who attended the news conference had some reservations about.

In our country's history, such incidents as this had never taken place. Such actions only weaken the little faith that the Panamanian people have in the Public Force because if those who steal are those who are supposed to safeguard the lives and dignity of the citizens, then we are at the mercy of clandestine and official criminals. Our institutions' degradation increases every day due to the lack of character of a government that, from day one, should have broken its ties to the past and avoid being compliant with collaborators and friends of the previous regime. It is no news that there are remains of the Noriega regime on the Public Force. Those persons, who find themselves cornered by the loss of sinecures and easy jobs, prefer to be outside the law because they suppose it is a weak government, with a poor public image, which has let down an entire generation—a generation that thought it had seen the sun of the people's vindications, but what it saw was only a dark flash.

So much corruption on the police force has no precedent. The institution must be completely purged. Now we really are unprotected. This is not the first time that policemen and security guards have been involved in robberies. It is necessary that someone with a scientific and professional background and a respectable image take charge of the Public Force to recover the trust that the Panamanian people want to have in the police and the PTJ. It is really embarrassing that members of the national police and the PTJ are involved in these incidents, but it is only the product of the flaky policies of a government that has still not taken its ship of state to a safe port and that continues to sail through storms of protests and the harassment of its political adversaries.

What has happened with the police is definitely worrisome, really alarming. It is no joke to realize that our security depends on uniformed criminals and persons with letters of marque. Something must be done to shake off that burden because no one is safe in this country anymore. It is time to awaken the dormant civic courage and face the mediocre attitudes of those who have let the country fall into this situation. As teachers used to say: It is now or never. There is no choice.

IRHE Director Warns of Expensive Power

PA2204195492 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 22 Apr 92 p 1-A

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Gonzalo Cordoba, director of the IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification], has warned that if the institution continues to "get caught" with administrative concessions that "do not benefit Panama in any way," in the end power will be more expensive.

Cordoba said he felt "very disappointed" because solutions to overcome the power crisis have been "denied to him one after the other," and now the institution must seek an "expensive" alternative, such as signing a contract with the Enron Citizen Company for a power-generating barge.

The Panamanian Electrical Resources, Inc. (PERI), the firm that was initially selected to sell power to IRHE at less than 7 centesimos per kilowatt-hour, failed to present a guaranteed bond within the established deadline in order to be awarded the contract. Because of that, Cordoba was instructed to initiate talks with the Enron company.

Cordoba met on 21 April with Jorge Weninger, who is the Enron Company's general manager. The company's president is Colonel (ret.) James Steel. Other government sources have disclosed that Steel's company offered to sell power to IRHE at the rate of 15 centesimos per kilowatt-hour, when the generation of power costs the IRHE 4 centesimos. That contract would represent an estimated income of 109 million balboas for the Enron company.

The source said that "very often" it is said that the prices offered by bidders "do not matter." I ask myself, the source added, how it can be unimportant when, in the long run, we are going to be affected by the tariffs.

Meanwhile, IRHE's director avoided "speculating" on the possibility of increasing the current rationing of power, alleging that he does not want to raise hopes or unnecessarily alarm the people.

IRHE depends on the little rain that may fall at the La Fortuna hydroelectric plant, Cordoba said, adding that a bid held for the repair of thermal unit No. 2 at Bahia Las Minas will be approved by other government institutions.

Argentina

Government Recognizes Fujimori as Peru's President

PY2204154092 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1442 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Apr (EFE)—Fernando Petrella, Argentine deputy foreign minister, stated today that Argentina recognizes Alberto Fujimori as the Peruvian chief of state "without doubt, as does the international community." He expressed confidence in the OAS mission that is seeking to reestablish democracy in that country.

Notwithstanding that, Petrella said that the Argentine Government "is maintaining fluid contact" with Maximo San Roman, Peruvian first vice president, who was nominated "constitutional president" by the majority of congressmen who do not acknowledge Fujimori's authority.

The deputy foreign minister stated that Argentine authorities initially reacted harshly against Fujimori's coup d'etat and are in contact with members of the Peruvian Congress, which was dissolved on 5 April together with the judicial branch.

Petrella stated that his country "has confidence in the negotiating firmness" of Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell, who heads the OAS mission that has been sent to Lima to evaluate the situation in Peru.

"Everything is in the hands of the OAS, in which we have full confidence," the Argentine diplomat said, highlighting the "vast experience and prestige" of Brazilian Joao Baena Soares, the OAS secretary general, who is accompanying Gros Espiell.

Argentina "deplores and categorically rejects" the coup d'etat in Peru, but recognizes Fujimori as president "without doubt."

"This is what the international community has done, but it does not mean that the demand for the reestablishment of democracy" in that country will be overlooked, Petrella said.

Menem Meets Top Labor Union Leaders 21 Ap[r]

PY2204205092 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 22 Apr 92 p 11

[Excerpt] (DYN-NA)—President Carlos Menem met with the five members of the joint leadership of the General Labour Confederation (CGT) at the Olivos presidential residence yesterday. During the first meeting between the President and the top brass of the recently united CGT, Menem confirmed the government's decision to reform the old collective wage-bargaining system, replacing it with negotiations on a company basis in which salary raises are linked to increases in company productivity.

However, the government and CGT leadership agreed to form two commissions that will work within the Health and Labour Ministries to discuss pension reforms and a possible modification of the social welfare system reform bill.

Sources said that the labour movement would insist on a straightforward wage hike when its leadership meets Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo in the next few days.

The sources added that during their talks with Menem the trade unionists also stressed that they opposed the change from a state-controlled pension fund to a privately run one and demanded more participation in the drawing up of the future social welfare system reform bill.

The CGT also called for union control of social welfare funds through a unified social security system. [passage omitted]

Cavallo Addresses Nation on State of Economy

PY2204132092 Buenos Aires Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Speech to the nation by Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Fellow countrymen; tonight I will speak about what we have accomplished in the economic field and what we must achieve during the next four years.

First, and most important, we have eliminated the fiscal deficit that provoked inflation and most harshly affected the poorest sectors. That means we have adjusted and balanced government revenues and expenditures. The imbalances represented a real problem for more than four decades.

In 1988, the last complete year of the Radical [Radical Civic Union] administration, the fiscal deficit exceeded 10 billion pesos, and that is why we experienced hyperinflation in 1989. In 1991 there was no fiscal deficit and this year our accounts will show a small surplus. That fiscal balance has allowed us to recover credibility in three essential economic areas: our currency, the government budget, and public credit. Today we have a currency that does not devaluate and will not devaluate. The peso is totally backed by gold and foreign currencies. The peso has a basic and constant value beside the value you and I give it: It is worth a dollar.

It is very important to watch over the peso. Those of us in the government must look after the peso by maintaining the fiscal discipline and strictly respecting the convertibility law. Each of you can take care of the peso by haggling over prices when you buy and by taking care of the centavos, because today even a centavo is valuable.

As of this year we have a national government budget that was approved by Congress and made into law last year. This is the first time the government has had a

budget law since 1955. Through it any one of you can find out how much each state organ is authorized to spend. A few days ago we reported the results of the budget implementation during the first quarter. All expenditures were on target.

We have recovered credibility over public credits. That was lost when the government stopped paying its debts. We normalized our relations with our creditors through the so-called Brady Plan. That means, first, that we now know the total amount of the public sector debt; and second, that the debt was reduced and restructured in such a way that we can now fulfill our commitments without spending more than 2 percent of our gross domestic product [GDP]. Between 1983 and 1989 we paid more than 4 percent of the GDP. Despite those payments we continued to accumulate arrears and the total debt rapidly increased. The cycle was broken at the end of 1989. Since then our debt stayed practically constant because the arrears and interest that continued to accumulate were compensated for by the debt reduction achieved through privatizations of Entel [National Telecommunications Enterprise] and Argentine Airlines.

During 1992—this year—the debt will be reduced by more than $10 billion thanks to the cancellations under the Brady Plan and through new privatizations.

Let us now analyze what will happen from now to the year 2000. Our debt, which at the end of 1991 represented 58 percent of the GDP, will be reduced to only 41 percent of the GDP by the end of this year. It will represent 29 percent of the GDP at the end of 1995, and only 19 percent by the year 2000.

Some politicians and media representatives have said that before we joined the Brady Plan we owed a lot and paid a little, while now we owe less but pay more. While that may greatly influence the propaganda and communications point of view, they are absolutely wrong.

In the past we paid a lot but gradually owed even more. Now we will pay what is required and the debt will begin to decrease. That is merely the result of putting our economy in order and reaching a very good agreement with our creditors.

From now on all of us will have to take care of our credit just as we take care of the peso. That will mean complying with our obligations, which are now accessible, and not allowing the country to become indebted. The recovery of our currency, our budget, and our public credit means the end of speculation, the recovery of stability, and the revaluation of work and production. Our economy lacked currency, budget, and credit. That meant it was like a society without a language, without a means of communication. In other words, it was like the Tower of Babel, which the Bible says could not be finished because people spoke different languages and did not understand each other. Without currency, without budget, and without credit, our government, enterprises, and people were unable to make their economic calculations; they could not plan and grow toward the future. So, the Argentine people, instead of working and producing, became involved in speculation, and ended up stealing from each other by creating more inflation.

Fortunately we have come out of that inferno, as can be verified today. That is the great meaning of stability. The achievement of stability is not questioned even by those most critical of the Menem administration. But there are many who say that the elimination of the fiscal deficit was achieved at a very high social cost, and that the situation of the poor has worsened.

That is not true. First, because the reduction of public spending was not made at the expense of the resources allocated for health, education, housing, or social security. On the contrary, this year—1992—public spending of a social nature will reach record levels. Provincial and federal public social spending will total 22.7 billion pesos. I say that with certainty because that level was already reached in the fourth quarter of 1991. In contrast, during the last year of the government of the Radical Civic Union social public spending did not go over 19.5 billion pesos and in 1989, as a result of hyperinflation, social spending was only 14.9 billion pesos. In just three years the government of President Menem has increased by 7.8 billion pesos the resources for education, health, housing, and social security.

Other components of public spending have been severely cut. Between 1988 and 1992, the interest paid on the internal and external debts dropped by 3 billion pesos annually and the losses of public companies and official banks, which were real centers of corruption, fell by 4 billion pesos. Savings were also made through the reduction of state bureaucracy thanks to the administrative reform and the program of voluntary retirement. These savings are being used to gradually improve the salaries of judges, policemen, members of the Armed Forces, and public servants in general—that is, those who provide essential state services.

This year—1992—through privatization, especially the privatization of the Argentine Railway Enterprise and the electric companies, we will be able to cut several hundreds of millions of pesos annually which will be entirely used to improve the budgets of the universities, the salaries of the teachers who still depend on the nation, and to improve the health system.

In sum, during three years of the Menem administration we have stopped the increase in public spending and implemented a strong redistribution of resources in favor of social spending, through greater provincial financing and the social security system. That does not mean that we are ignoring current social injustices. There are too many families who are suffering the consequences of too many years of economic mismanagement.

We will never solve their problems by reversing the national reform. On the contrary, we must extend it to the provinces because they have the resources to look after social needs. We know there is a long way to go

before adequate allocations for education, health, housing, and social action can be efficiently distributed to those who really need them.

In order to fight poverty and improve social conditions, the provinces and municipalities must cut their bureaucratic personnel, inefficient public companies, and banks, and use available funds—which thanks to the convertibility plan have increased considerably—to improve social services.

Total public spending has not dropped, but as we have explained, it has been redistributed to favor social areas.

In order to eliminate a deficit of more than 10 billion pesos per year we needed a massive increase in government revenues. We have also been criticized for that by people who say that our accounts benefited from the transitory revenues produced by privatization. That is not true, because all the revenues produced by the sale of public companies, including those from the oil industry, were used to reduce the public debt and to finance voluntary retirement plan compensations, that is, to cover one-time expenses.

Privatization has helped balance public accounts because it has eliminated the annual loses that the budget had to cover and because the new private companies pay taxes. Another criticism that has been leveled against us is that revenues have increased through regressive taxation. They mention, among others, the value added tax [VAT]. That is also incorrect, because the increased revenues from taxes have permitted the government to eliminate the most regressive of all taxes: inflation.

Workers and pensioners know that when inflation stood at 30 percent per month, by the time they collected their salaries, the equivalent of a 30 percent tax had been levied simply because prices had already risen that much by the time they received their money. The VAT seeks to fight evasion and therefore prevent unfair competition. We must persevere in that struggle. I reiterate: Each one of you must ask for the appropriate receipt for your purchases. You also must report to the tax department anyone who refuses to give you a receipt.

The increased VAT revenues will allow the government to better control the payment of taxes paid only by those who have more—like the taxes on assets and profits. The bulk of future tax revenues is expected to come from that type of tax. We have obtained, and will continue to obtain, resources in an increasingly more efficient and fair way. We have eliminated or reduced many bad taxes, like agricultural withholdings and the tax on checks. The new taxes that we have created only affect the rich, like the tax on personal assets and the tax on profits obtained abroad.

We also have been criticized for closing companies and for the alleged lack of equal opportunities for taxpayers to update their situations. Such criticism is unfounded. In every country in the world, companies that do not pay taxes are closed. In many countries, like Italy for example, sanctions are applied to clients who do not obtain the appropriate receipt after making a purchase.

The methods for legalizing capital abroad and capital in the country are identical. In the first case, norms are enforced to repatriate the capital and to declare the assets abroad upon which taxes will be paid. They were exempted from paying taxes under the previous law. Those who have capital in the country can avoid any harassment by the General Directorate of Taxation [DGI] by paying the delinquent taxes since the enforcement of the convertibility law.

The DGI will not review previous tax payments providing taxpayers pay all taxes for last year. Contributors can avoid penalization under the tax law providing they pay all taxes as of 1 April 1991. You can rest assured that those who fail to do so soon will be detected and will face serious consequences.

I want to talk now about the situation of retirees. All members of President Menem's administration are aware that retirees who contributed as dependent workers are receiving less money than that established by the law. We know that Argentine society is responsible for this unfair situation. We have made every effort to alleviate it.

First, retirees now receive, in terms of purchasing power, a higher pension than in July 1989 when President Menem took power, and the 150-peso minimum pension that retirees receive is similar to the average paid during the 1987-1991 period. I am not saying that it is enough. I know that it is not enough. Do not forget that many of those who seek electoral advantage from the retirees' plight were responsible for paying smaller pensions when they were in power.

Second, we managed to review that process of paying new retirees. Some 300,000 new pensioners and retirees have been added during the past three years. Payments are being made with genuine resources and not with money issued by the Central Bank. Furthermore, the pension funds have resources equivalent to almost one month's salary, a fact that lets them pay the salary on the third of the month rather than on 13th or 14th as in the past.

For the first time ever, it has been admitted that the state owes retirees the difference between what they received and what they should have been paid. The difference includes payments to 1 April 1991, and it soon will be recognized that the debt has accumulated since then. The smaller debts, that is, those comprising 12 minimum salaries will be paid in cash, first to the oldest retirees and then to the younger ones, as long as the resources are available.

We are fighting against social benefit evasion and we will rigorously implement the personal assets taxes proposed by Deputy Matzkin. That will allow a considerable increase in resources and allow the pension funds to pay the adjustable 85 percent increase, first to the oldest

retirees and then to the remainder, obviously depending on the increase of money collection.

Let me address those who have capital amounting to more than 100,000 pesos in Argentina or abroad. I am referring to those who own summer resorts or other types of comforts for entertaining. I estimate that at least 1 million Argentines have such luxuries. They will have to submit a reliable sworn declaration on 24 July. They will have to pay just 1 percent of the value per year. If taxpayers comply with that, the pension funds will soon be able to normalize the retirement payments established by law.

We think that those compelled to pay the tax will do so in solidarity with retirees. We warn those who seek to evade the tax that we will publish an alphabetical list of all contributors and the amount paid by each of them. Those who have capital of more than 100,000 pesos and who are not on the list will be considered evaders, and we will make a joint effort to identify and harass them. If anybody declares less than what he really owes, he can be reported to the DGI for the benefit of retirees.

Somebody has mocked the tax by saying that we will not be able to control the houses that Argentines own abroad. Do not worry about that. We will find a way to do it, but as an Argentine, I refuse to accept that there are many insensitive fellow citizen who would avoid paying a tax that is probably less than the money they spend mowing the lawn of their residences.

Before going on to another subject, I would like to emphasize to each of those old men who worked all their life that those who tell them the government now can pay all its debts in cash, and that it can immediately begin granting the 82 percent increase, without waiting for the availability of appropriate resources, are irresponsible demagogues.

If we did what they preach, all Argentines, and especially retired workers, would suffer a lot more than what they are suffering now. In fact, that would call for a substantial issuance of money without backing, which in less than 30 days would again transform the country into a hyperinflationary hell, like the one we experienced in July 1989.

Those who really want to help retired workers are not those who are saying every day how much should be paid to them. That is clearly set forth in the law, and retired workers are very well aware of it and the government has clearly admitted it.

Those who really help retired workers are those who pay social taxes and the tax on personal assets, and those who are fighting evasion. Any other action amounts to taking advantage of retired workers' needs in an effort to gain electoral benefit, or to arrange professional service deals, instigating them to file lawsuits that will not help them solve their problems.

I now will tell you about the reactivation that we managed to achieve and about the growth level we have to reach and maintain.

Reactivation was a consequence of stability. The great challenge now is to achieve sustained growth. The reactivation of demand has been reflected in almost all areas.

Let me mention some revealing figures. In 1990, car sales stood at 95,000 units. In 1991, sales grew to 145,000, while in 1992, sales are expected to reach 250,000 vehicles. That could reflect only an increase of the income of higher brackets.

The demand that is typical of middle brackets and of workers' families, however, also has increased. In fact, 265,000 television sets were sold in 1990 and 750,000 in 1992; 160,000 stoves were sold in 1990 and 500,000 in 1992; 330,000 refrigerators in 1990 and 700,000 in 1992.

In addition, consumption of beef, soft drinks, milk, and other food items also has undergone considerable growth.

Such increased demand only can be explained in terms of higher income in all sectors. That is precisely what the figures are saying.

The statements that enterprises have submitted to the social security system reveal that all types of remuneration, including overtime, per-diem pay, and bonuses, have increased by a rate that is 20 percent higher than the consumer price index variation. The salaries earned by employees of the enterprises that were privatized increased—during the period of convertibility—by a rate that is 60 percent higher than the inflation rate.

That should be added to the creation of 440,000 new jobs in the private area. If we subtract the 60,000 voluntary retirements in the public area, net employment figures show an increase of 380,000 jobs.

Many of you will wonder how that could be consistent with the claims by some labor leaders that convertibility was achieved to the detriment of the purchasing power of salaries. They are talking about collective bargaining salaries, which remained almost unchanged in the last period.

But those salaries are effective only in very few cases, in enterprises that have been unable to grant salary increases because they could not increase productivity or because of market conditions.

In order to make collective bargaining salaries similar to the salaries paid by enterprises, negotiations should be conducted at the level of enterprises and not at the level of specific areas.

That does not mean the government wants the division of labor unions, but negotiations must be decentralized. Only in that manner will we be able to establish the

effective increase of productivity. And if salary readjustments are not in keeping with that increase, they will end up provoking devaluation and inflation.

I want to explain that very clearly. The average of effective salaries has improved and will continue improving thanks to reactivation, investment, and growth, and not as a consequence of the struggle between union leaders and businessmen. If any struggle of that nature takes place in any given sector, it inevitably will end up provoking inflation. We have understood that very clearly. Those who do not want to understand will stay out of the system, and not because the government wants it, but because the real situation will take them out of the system.

All the reactivation and improvements we have achieved in this past year can only be maintained with investments. That has already increased 40 percent in the last 12 months, according to our estimates. But we need to increase them even more. I would like to read you some figures:

Imports of capital goods increased 123 percent in 1991 compared with the previous year.

Sales of machines and tools to the domestic market increased 68 percent during the same period.

Construction permits in the federal capital increased 38 percent.

Sales of trucks and trailers increased 32 percent.

Cement sales increased 27 percent.

Tractors sales, which were low in 1991, began to increase in the last three months. During the first quarter, compared with the same quarter last year, tractor sales increased 185 percent.

It is precisely in this aspect, of investment, that we are going to see all the benefits of the Brady Plan.

The lack of fulfillment of government obligations with its creditors not only caused the disappearance of public credit but increased the cost of credit to the private sector. Interest rates and commissions for the opening of letters of credit were extremely high. The periods of operations were very short, and most of the times Argentine businessmen were not able to obtain either internal or foreign credit.

Under those conditions, of course, no investments could be made. But now everything will be different. Through the Brady Plan, the public sector will be able to fulfill its obligations in due time because the debt has been reduced and interest is much lower.

The public credit already has been recovered, but because the government does not want to be indebted, the private sector will receive all the benefits and will be able to invest.

Important lines of credit are being reopened, especially by countries that export capital goods and have good technologies. The medium-size and large companies, especially the large ones, will be able to place shares and negotiable obligations in the internal and foreign capital markets. But the small companies will have larger and longer-term bank credits with lower interest, because what the large companies and some medium-size companies obtain from the capital markets will represent resources that banks will have available to be channeled toward companies that do not have easy access to those markets.

The Bank of the Nation, which through the absorption of the Banade [National Development Bank] is creating an industrial investment credit department, hopes to increase the total of loans to the private sector by 1 billion pesos by the end of the year. They will be operations earmarked for medium- and small-size companies, both in the agriculture and livestock and the industrial sectors. Moreover, it has a credit from the Japanese Eximbank of more than $200 million for the purchase of capital goods and technology in that country.

And if all that were not enough, to the extent that capital is repatriated, the Bank of the Nation and the banks that join this system will give 180-day credits in dollars with international interest rates to finance the working capital of all productive sectors.

The recently created Bank of Investment and Foreign Trade, commonly called BISE, which will perform as a second-level bank, through many other commercial banks will offer within the next few weeks investment credits initially amounting to $500 million, which will be obtained from funds of the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] and the Spanish and Italian Governments.

Because of the gradual reduction of legal bank reserves, and the sustained increase of deposits in pesos and dollars, all banks will have more lending capacity and will offer more credits on better terms.

But the great challenge now—and we have to emphasize this—is to increase the production of goods and services. Each industrial and farm enterprise, as well as all those that render services, have to increase quantities, improve quality, and reduce production costs.

Only in that way will the standard of living of all Argentines improve steadily. Living standards will not improve just because people go to supermarkets with more pesos in their pockets. Living standards will improve only if supply shows more goods of better quality.

Otherwise, people going to supermarkets with more pesos will only cause price increases and inflation. The improvement of credit terms has left no more room for excuses. This is the time for producing, producing, and producing.

Another subject that has been used in an attempt to cause concern among the people is the increase in

imports and the possible negative results in the balance of trade, that is, that imports may surpass exports.

It is very important for you to know that the increase in imports, far from being a problem, is an indication of economic vitality, especially if exports remain constant or if they continue to grow, as has been happening.

Argentina is importing many capital goods because investment has increased. I wish such imports would increase even more. It is precisely what we need. The increase in the importation of semi-processed goods and raw materials—many of which we do not produce or we cannot produce—has been caused by the more intense activities in the economic area.

If we could not import such goods, or if we placed obstacles to their importation, we would only hinder the expansion of production.

Consumer goods and some raw materials and semi-processed goods that are produced locally also are imported. Such imports are positive because they help us maintain supply at an appropriate level and keep prices stable.

If there are imports, it is because demand has grown beyond production. That is why we have to import goods. Producers themselves will reduce or eliminate such imports if they increase their own production, improve quality, and reduce prices.

Thus far it always has been said that there are factors that restrict production, like expensive materials, high transportation cost, and scarce credit. But all these factors have either disappeared or are about to disappear.

Throughout the past few years, the price of fuels and electrical power has not increased; on the contrary, it has followed a downward trend.

The same thing happened with cargo transportation. Deregulation has made it possible to reduce costs. As for communication, phone rates—the price of which grew considerably in 1990—have remained practically unchanged since March 1991. The price of urban and long-distance phone services outside peak hours has dropped by up to 20 percent.

The only rates that did increase are those of home services like gas supply, sanitary services, and phones, and bus passenger transportation, because some subsidies that were concealed within the tariff structure were reduced.

But those increases have in no way affected industrial and farming production costs. The price of industrial materials has remained practically stable thanks—among other things—to the opening of the market to foreign products.

Consequently, all those producers and middlemen who have managed to increase their prices must have increased their profits by a substantial margin. Many producers, industrialists, businessmen, and firms that render services are in that situation. Otherwise, it would have been impossible to justify the 30 percent inflation rate increase in one year.

Consequently, many people will have to increase production and reduce their prices. If they do not do it, they will face the competition of foreign products, and they will have to reduce their prices just the same. But in that case they will lose the advantage of large-scale sales, which is the method of producers and industrialists of the countries that move forward.

As for exporters, they must persevere in their efforts to increase production and their competitiveness. The government will continue to do all in its power to eliminate the obstacles and taxes that push up their production costs, and will help them conquer and keep foreign markets.

But no one should be deceived.

There will be no devaluations, and, if we experience a trade balance deficit for some months or years, it will be because the entry of capital attracted by the confidence in Argentina will allow us to finance it as occurred for many years in countries like Japan, Germany, Korea, Spain, and Italy while they set the basis for their sustained growth.

I will refer to a demand made on dumping. When a subsidized product causes unfair competition and harms producers, the Commerce and Industry Secretariat adopts antidumping mechanisms, which are implemented in all countries. They are international procedures that seek to solve the problem.

But you must know that those who seek to hinder the Argentine economy are behind the many press charges made on dumping, so that we Argentines can pay the high prices that a few spoiled monopolists want to impose on us. We will not back down on this and other matters.

Fellow countrymen: We have reorganized our economy; we have adopted economic rules that are now compatible with the political system established in the Constitution. They are not strange rules, and they have allowed stable countries that have a per-capita income three or four time higher than ours to reach their current position. Consequently, after having the courage to make all these changes, we have to work to strengthen them. From now on we just need to improve the new rules. We no longer will need to change all of them. What we have to do is to act in keeping with these rules with firmness and responsibility. We—government officials who discharge political duties—have to act with austerity, efficiency, openness, and sensibility so the state can comply with its essential duties. Each of you also should be careful with your budget by discussing prices, paying taxes, and making them be paid, and—most of all—by producing more and better in the position you were assigned. If we stop trying to obtain sectorial advantages or privileges and we start to work and produce, nobody will stop us

Argentines, and we will assure our well-being and that of our children and grandchildren. Thank you very much.

Nuclear Agency Official Leaves for Meeting

PY2304024492 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1939 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Apr (TELAM)—Manuel Mondino, the National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA) chairman, has stated that Argentina "will continue with its independent technological development."

Mondino made his remarks at Ezeiza Airport shortly before leaving for Vienna, Austria, where he will preside over a meeting of the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Mondino said: "Argentina continues to be among the 10 more advanced countries in the world because it has been able to profit well from its independent technological development."

Bolivia

Santa Cruz To Host 10th Antidrug Conference

PY2204122692 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The 10th International Antidrug Conference will be held in Santa Cruz Department between 27 and 30 April. Representatives from Europe, North America, Latin America, and Asia and observers from the Vatican and Japan will attend the conference.

While explaining the objectives of the conference, Social Defense Under Secretary Gonzalo Torrico reported that DEA Administrator Robert Bonner will also attend the conference. He said:

[Begin Gonzalo Torrico recording] The participation of delegates from mainland China is very important because China is one of the primary manufacturers of chemical products. Their presence is necessary at this 10th conference because it will discuss ways to control these chemicals and prevent their illegal use. Delegations from Japan, Spain, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, and France will also attend this conference. This international conference will be very important.

The foreign media have agreed to cover this event. Journalists from the Asahi Television Network of Japan will arrive in Santa Cruz on 25 April. The Colombian television network of writer Gabriel Garcia Marquez, better known as (?Cuba-T), will also be present and will arrive in Santa Cruz on 26 April. Thus, the international press is turning their attention to Santa Cruz.

This is the first time that this conference will be held in our country. This organization was created 10 years ago and has held meetings in various nations. This will be the first time it will meet in Bolivia. This is very important for us because it represents an acknowledgment of the Bolivian Government's efforts to effectively combat the illegal drug trade. [end recording]

Minister Hopes For Reduced U.S. Tin Sales

PY2204130492 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Mines and Metallurgy Minister Alvaro Rejas has gone to the United States to try to persuade the Bush administration not to sell its tin reserves on the world market. Minutes before his departure, a very optimistic Minister Rejas said that efforts will be made to suspend tin sales for at least three years. He said:

[Begin Rejas recording] We are coordinating our action with the ambassadors of the various tin producing countries, who will meet on 24 April with the commission [not further identified] to formulate an official diplomatic presentation. [end recording]

Brazil

Foreign Ministry Affirms Fujimori Recognition

PY2204225092 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2208 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Brasilia, 22 Apr (EFE)—Luiz Fernando Benedini, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry (Itamaraty) spokesman, today stated that Brazil recognizes President Alberto Fujimori "as the constituted authority" in Peru.

Benedini told EFE that Brazil's counterpart in Peru is the Fujimori government, irrespective of the coup it perpetrated on 5 April, which was condemned by Brazilian authorities.

Benedini said the Brazilian Government "is waiting for the results" of the OAS mission currently visiting Lima. The mission consists of OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell.

As a protest against the Peruvian coup, Brazil has suspended two bilateral projects with Peru: One is a natural gas transaction, and the second is a road project that would link the Brazilian Amazon region to the Pacific coast.

Government Negotiates Li Peng, Dalai Lama Visit

PY2304001492 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Apr 92 p 9

[By Monica Medeiros]

[Text] Brasilia—To prevent diplomatic entanglements with China, the Brazilian Government wants Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatzo to stay in the country between 4 and 8 June, which are the scheduled dates for the Overall Forum symposium. This symposium will be completed before the arrival of Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng, who has been invited for Rio-92 [UN Conference on

Environment and Development]. Li Peng refuses to attend the conference if the Tibetan leader is in the country.

The Dalai Lama, symbol of the resistance to the annexation of Tibet by China, has been invited to participate in the symposium of Parliamentarian and Spiritual Leaders of Human Survival.

Itamaraty [Brazilian Foreign Ministry] wants the Dalai Lama to have the status of an official guest and is confident that Tibet's spiritual leader will agree to come to Brazil on a different date than the Chinese prime minister. Talks with Lodi Gyari [name as published], the Tibetan leader's special representative, indicate that he will not create political difficulties for Brazil.

A diplomat who is following the issue has said that "there is no other possible solution. The government would not like to limit the visa that will be granted to him because of a question of courtesy."

In negotiations with the Chinese to reconcile the visits of the Dalai Lama and Li Peng, Itamaraty's argument is that it would be bad publicity for the Chinese Government, which is applying pressure in this respect, to refuse a visa for the Dalai Lama.

Minister Says AMX Plane To Resume Operations

PY2304002292 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Aeronautics Minister Socrates Da Costa Monteiro presided over the commemorations of a fighter plane today. The ceremony that took place at Santa Cruz Air Force Base in Rio de Janeiro marked the resumption of operations for the subsonic fighter plane AMX, which had been interrupted since the crash of one of the planes in Italy, which is developing the plane together with Brazil.

Socrates Monteiros praised the participation of the young Brazilian Air Force in World War II, during which the 1st Fighter Group excelled in its military professionalism and discipline. The minister said Brazil faces a very important fight: to work for a better future. According to the minister, this challenge requires discipline and that we put aside superficial or hasty solutions that prevent a better view of the future. The minister added that the country is going through a period of struggle that indicates a new reality and the materialization of the national will in achieving the permanent goals of our nation. We are all part of this effort. Yesterday the nation took pilots' dreams; today it requires our dedication and trust. The recognition of our responsibility and contribution to the country's progress is a factor that gives meaning to our role at the end of our journey, the minister concluded.

Chile

Senators Comment on OAS, Situation in Peru

PY2304024092 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] The OAS must prove that it has enough authority to act in Peru and that it does not practice a double-standard policy by exerting more pressure on Haiti, which also experienced a coup.

This is the opinion of Senators Carlos Gonzalez Marquez [Radical Party] and Hernan Vodanovic [Socialist Party], who travelled to Peru representing the Coalition of Parties for Democracy.

The two senators admitted that currently the Peruvian people support the de facto government headed by President Alberto Fujimori, which in turn enjoys the support of the Armed Forces, because they are skeptical about the responsibility and openness with which the country is administered at various levels.

This is reflected in the song, currently popular in Peru, that talks about corruption affecting institutions and public personalities, a recording of which the senators brought back to Chile. [recording of song played]

Sens. Gonzalez Marquez and Vodanovic noted that, despite the real situation in Peru, a self-inflicted coup is not justified. Gonzalez Marquez added that this is not an exclusively Peruvian problem but is characteristic of the entire Latin American continent, and that the OAS must act energetically.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] It must show whether or not it is capable of implementing its resolutions or prove correct those who maintain the OAS is an obsolete organization that lacks any authority. This situation not only poses a problem for Peru but also for the OAS, and we must say this as bluntly as I am doing so now. The OAS must prove that it has sufficient authority to impose its resolutions. [end recording]

The two senators added that the OAS, obviously, cannot act with force but that it must be made quite clear that the continent will not tolerate the disruption of democracy and institutionalism of regional countries with the support of the armed forces.

Charges Against Customs Officials Investigated

PY2204232892 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1710 GMT 21 Apr 92

[Text] Santiago, 21 Apr (EFE)—Official sources reported today that Chilean authorities are investigating the confessions of a Colombian drug trafficker who was arrested last week. This trafficker reported that during General Augusto Pinochet's regime high-ranking Customs officials used to protect their cocaine shipments to the United States.

National Customs Director Benjamin Prado has termed as worrisome the confessions of Colombian trafficker Antonio Maria Gonzalez Romero, and added that he has ordered a thorough investigation to establish whether his confessions are true or false.

Gonzalez Romero, who is accused of being a "Medellin Cartel" member, was captured last week by the investigative (civilian) police as being responsible for the shipment to the United States of more than 300 kg of cocaine between 1987 and 1991.

This Colombian citizen was heading a group that was operating through a factory for furniture, in which the drug was hidden, exported to the United States.

In his confessions to police, Gonzalez Romero said that during the military regime his organization had "a top-level contact" at Customs who used to facilitate the shipment of drug cargoes abroad.

Benjamin Prado did not rule out the possibility that people linked to drug trafficking still may be at the Chilean Customs Office, but added that the investigations will find that out.

He added that when he assumed his office, named by current President Patricio Aylwin in March 1990, he adopted some measures such as imposing frequent rotation shifts for those in charge of the most important Customs offices such as those of Santiago, Valparaiso, Talcahuano, Arica, and Iquique.

Civilian Police Deputy Chief Jose Sotomayor has stated that the Colombian trafficker's confessions are worrisome because they imply that drug infiltration in Chile is deeper than suspected.

He added that investigations into the activities of Gonzalez Romero and his accomplices continue, but that he is expecting new information from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) or Interpol to intensify the investigations.

According to Commander Jaime Rieutord, chief of the Carabineros OS-7 Department, specialized in antidrug operations, the infiltration and corruption problems "are latent," and especially worry the organization he is heading.

Rieutord added that it is no longer possible to think that Chile is a country invulnerable to drug trafficking, and expressed his special concern about the problem of "laundering money" obtained through these operations, which in Chile cannot be investigated thoroughly because of the current law.

He therefore expressed his support for a draft bill being debated in Congress that will limit so-called "bank secrecy" and will allow the police access to that source of information on the "laundering of money."

Ominami Warns of 'Misuse' of Environmental Issues

PY2204231892 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1418 GMT 21 Apr 91

[Text] Santiago, 21 Apr (EFE)—Chilean Economy Minister Carlos Ominami has warned about the "misuse" of the planet's environmental issue. The minister addressed the subject in a speech at a meeting on international trade and environment, which is being sponsored by the OAS and which will end here today.

The meeting, which is being attended by experts and government representatives of the 34 OAS countries, is being sponsored by the OAS with a view toward the upcoming UN Conference on Environment and Development, which is due to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June.

According to the Chilean minister, there are clear indications that there is an attempt to use the legitimate concern about the environment for protectionist purposes, and—in some cases—even for the purpose of promoting technological dependence.

At this two-day meeting, the OAS is trying to agree on a regional strategy to make foreign trade compatible with sustained development and to permit OAS members to adopt a common position in the face of new factors, especially now that possible "environmental 'dumping'" [preceding word in English] or "unfair competition" is being mentioned in some regions of the world.

In referring to foreign trade and sustained development, Ominami said: "Any sensible proposal regarding the environment should explain how an absolutely valid, legitimate, and pertinent concern can be used for either commercial or technological purposes."

Ominami made an appeal to all the region's countries to bear the environment in mind in their development plans, but, simultaneously, "to strongly oppose the bad use of the environmental issue," which has gained force lately, especially in the developed countries.

The minister recalled that the national regulations of these countries and the implementation of certain environmental requirements many times seek to induce certain behaviors in the technological field "associated with the technology offered by the very countries imposing the restrictions."

Ominami labelled as completely "unacceptable" the position of certain circles of industrialized countries that, alarmed by the damage caused to the planet's environment, "some way or another seek to place all the blame on developing countries."

The Chilean minister urged the developed countries "to share an equal responsibility for the damage they caused the environment in the past."

Ominami recalled that Latin America has been subject to several types of restrictions, such as the foreign debt or macro-economic adjustments, and, therefore, cannot tolerate further conditions.

The minister then noted: "There is no doubt that the only chance of solving our problems lies in our capacity to guarantee a high level of and sustained growth over the years, therefore, the subject of the environment cannot be regarded as a new restriction."

Ominami said that Chile will accept discretionary restrictions on its foreign trade "only if they affect final products and not the production process" and as long as those restrictions are in keeping "with acceptable international regulations."

Ominami, who also said he was against including environmental costs in the production, said that "the way to protect ourselves from the bad use is to avoid the proliferation of national regulations."

He added that the homogenization of the costs is subject to the resolution of the most serious global environment problems our planet is suffering.

Among these problems, he mentioned the thinning of the ozone layer and the change of climate, among others, whose solution is difficult but remains a priority issue.

Paraguay

Debt to Private Banks 'Virtually Canceled'

PY2304000292 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 21 Apr 92 p 12

[Excerpt] Reliable sources have reported that Paraguay has virtually canceled its debt with private banks. The government has promised to pay the remaining $6 million owed to the City Bank in the new few days.

It paid a total of $132.6 million in cash to cancel its debt of $239.4 million owed to international financing agencies.

Consequently, a major part of the debt (80 percent) to banks was paid by repurchasing certificates in the secondary markets. That is, $84.5 million was paid in cash to repurchase the certificates of the foreign debt and to recover the nominal value of $191.3 million of the debt.

The government also directly canceled its total debt with private banks by paying $5,500,083 to Spanish banks; $8,991,389 to Japanese banks; $6,247,798—scheduled to be paid at any time—to U.S. banks; $23,248,553 to British banks; $3,141,431 to Canadian banks, and $997,562 to other banks. All the payments were made last week. A total of $48.1 million was disbursed for the direct payment.

An unofficial report said that it was possible to repurchase the debt certificates at a real cost of 44.17 percent (for which $84.5 million was disbursed), thus the nominal value totalled $191.3 million. Of that amount, $187.6 million corresponded to the overdue debt and $3.8 million to the debt that will fall due.

A total of $48.1 million (100 percent) also was automatically paid to those financial agencies, of which $42.4 million was earmarked to pay the overdue debt and $5.7 million to pay the debt that will fall due.

Paraguay canceled the debts by paying in cash $132.6 million ($84.5 million for the repurchasing and $48.1 million in direct payment). [passage omitted]

Constituent Assembly Approves Draft Constitution

PY2204164892 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 22 Apr 92 Special Supplement p 2

[Excerpt] On 21 April the plenum of the Constituent Assembly unanimously approved in general the draft of the constitution that was drawn up by the Drafting Committee. An overall study of the document was the only point discussed by the plenum because the president of the Budget Committee requested that the deliberations on the reprogramming of the budget be postponed until 22 April.

The drafters of the document asked for its approval along clearly conciliatory lines. It was said that the document is a product of a consensus among all Paraguayans and that the draft was written in complete freedom, without taking into account political positions. Oscar Paciello of the Colorado Party, as president of the Drafting Committee, outlined the draft constitution. [passage omitted]

Peru

San Roman States Defiance of 'Dictator' Fujimori

PY2204172492 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1701 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Apr (TELAM)—Maximo San Roman, who was elected president on 21 April by the dissolved Peruvian Congress, has stated that "two chiefs of state cannot co-exist in my country because I was elected constitutionally and Fujimori is a dictator."

San Roman explained that "Fujimori is usurping power because he has betrayed the popular will through his self-coup that relies on the support of a minority of the Armed Forces. It is not what it seems to be."

In remarks to Radio Rivadavia, he said that he and the congressmen "are trying to find the best council of ministers to guarantee efficiency and security."

He stated that once the council has been formed "we will outline the actions that we will immediately undertake to throw Fujimori out of power through the support of all Peruvians who love democracy."

San Roman said that he will begin "to clarify what has happened and to show that Fujimori's self-coup seeks to win the support of the population through charges of corruption."

Finally, he maintained that "we will warn the people about the jump into the unknown that has taken place, thus undoing all the efforts that have been made by Peruvian citizens during the last 20 months."

To Appoint Cabinet

LD2204203192 Madrid TVE Internacional Television in Spanish 1830 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Recorded report from Lima by special correspondent Javier Saenz]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] The Peruvian president elected by his country's legislature, Maximo San Roman, has given an interview to Television Espanola's special correspondent in Lima. San Roman announced that he will appoint a parallel government and will designate a prime minister in the next few days. The president, who was invested yesterday, has rejected an offer of dialogue with Fujimori:

[Begin recording] [San Roman] Senor Fujimori does not have any authority to ask for a dialogue. He was never capable of holding a dialogue.

[Saenz] On Television Espanola, Maximo San Roman, who was invested last night by the legislature as president of Peru, has rejected any possibility of a dialogue with President Fujimori. Confined to his home, which has become the opposition version of the Presidential Palace, San Roman, 46, is preparing for the appointment of a parallel government and, he told us, within 24 hours he will give the names of the prime minister and foreign minister in his cabinet. Like the whole of the opposition, San Roman places his hopes on two factors: international pressure and the Armed Forces.

[San Roman] We have issued a call to our Armed Forces to reflect on that moment of confusion and doubt and of loyalty to the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, who at that time was Senor Fujimori by constitutional mandate.

[Saenz] Maximo San Roman flatly rejects the offer of a dialogue made in the early hours of this morning by President Fujimori. It remains to be seen what the solution to the Peruvian crisis will be. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Awaits Military's Response

PA2204192892 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1815 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] First Vice President Maximo San Roman, who has been designated constitutional president by the dissolved Congress, has said he is awaiting a reply from the Armed Forces before installing his new government.

San Roman appealed to the glorious Armed Forces, which in a time of confusion and surprises agreed to heed Fujimori's invitation to remain loyal to him. San Roman said he awaits a response to his request to be installed in the Presidential Palace replacing Fujimori. He added that for this reason, he will wait a period of time before designating his cabinet head and the rest of his ministers.

Rejects Fujimori's Plan

PA2204195392 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1823 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Report by Rocio Vicente]

[Text] Maximo San Roman, after he was sworn in as constitutional president, reported that he will not recognize the schedule announced by President Alberto Fujimori's national emergency and reconstruction government.

San Roman said that the immediate measures planned by his government, called national reconciliation and unity, include a call for a national dialogue and the delegation of authority to the executive branch so it can legislate in various areas to modernize the state.

[Begin recording] [San Roman] I will not recognize the schedule because this would be equivalent to legitimizing a dictator.

[Reporter] What will be your immediate actions?

[San Roman] The constitutional government that assumed office in the person of this modest citizen on 21 April has already created a commission that will expedite the dialogue, for which we have authority to call. In addition, the Congress, which you know is in permanent session, has already decided to invest the executive branch of the constitutional government with special powers so it can legislate on various matters to modernize and reform the state, a measure that the people so urgently need and demand. This measure could have been made within the constitutional framework, without putting our country at risk and without completely isolating ourselves from the world. [end recording]

San Roman said his cabinet will be formed by the most eminent personalities. He did not rule out the possibility of including members of the Armed Forces and retired policemen. Finally, he said that another newspaper, EL PERUANO, will be created to publish his government's legal measures. He said that the members of the OAS delegation visiting Peru will pay him a visit on 23 April.

Criticizes Fujimori's Message

LD2304014792 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] [Announcer] We now have exclusive statements to this radio station by Maximo San Roman, the constitutional president of Peru. President San Roman

believes President Alberto Fujimori's chances of negotiating with the opposition are practically nonexistent. In an interview with RNE-1, San Roman criticized the timetable for elections proposed by Fujimori, and said he feels optimistic and that he has the support of the Peruvian people. A report on this from Javier Gonzalez, our special correspondent in Lima.

[Gonzalez] Maximo San Roman, the constitutional president of Peru, believes the speech yesterday by Fujimori, in which he announced the political timetable that will culminate in legislative elections next February, is a desperate effort. In exclusive statements to RNE-1, he said it was a joke on the country. In keeping with statements in the past few hours by the entire opposition, he rejected any possibility of a dialogue with the de facto government, and he added that he feels ever stronger, even though Fujimori continues to be ensconced in the Government Palace:

[Begin San Roman recording] I am very optimistic by this support which, without my having asked for it, is being offered to me by many sections of our population. Rest assured that in a very short time we will be entering the Government Palace through the front door, because reason must prevail over force, truth over falsehood. I am also sure that democracy will defeat dictatorship. [end recording]

[Gonzalez] Maximo San Roman also said he expects a reply from the military to the exhortation he made during his installation speech.

[Begin San Roman recording] Yesterday I was very clear in a message I gave to the nation in the sense that I have asked for reflection by the Armed Forces, whom we shall wait for with open arms to recognize the legitimacy of a constitutional government, and in this area we are working extensively. [end recording]

[Gonzalez] In the opinion of San Roman, the fact that the military leadership has reiterated its support to Fujimori is evidence of its weakness. Meanwhile, the OAS delegates are continuing their meetings, and a demonstration in support of Fujimori will be held in a few hours in central San Martin Square.

Describes Own Reform Plans

PA2304034692 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0125 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] On 22 April, Maximo San Roman, in his capacity as constitutional president, expressed doubts that the schedule announced by President Alberto Fujimori on 21 April will be fulfilled. He pointed out that the dissolved Congress gave him powers to decree emergency measures. San Roman made the following statements in news conferences with the national and international press.

Twenty-four hours after being sworn in as constitutional president, Maximo San Roman dedicated the entire morning of 22 April to interviews with representatives of the foreign press.

Vice President Carlos Garcia Garcia arrived at San Roman's residence at 1030 and two hours later the de jure president held a news conference, describing the message delivered by President Fujimori on the evening of 21 April as a desperate action. San Ramon said the Congress granted him powers to legislate and added that a commission is now discussing amendments to over 100 articles of the Constitution.

[Begin San Roman recording] We plan to modify or improve more than 100 articles. I believe this is important. There are bills to rehabilitate parts of the Chambers; there is a bill to renew 50 percent of the membership and another to renew 30 percent. There is also a bill to revoke the mandate of congressmen—through consultation and popular vote—whose work fails to live up to the trust given them. [end recording]

San Roman also regretted Economy Minister Bolona's resignation.

[Begin San Roman recording] It is very unfortunate that Mr. Bologna's efforts, 14 months of work and sacrifice, were for nothing. He managed to create an atmosphere of trust in the international community that has now virtually collapsed. He was caught by surprise; he was shown the videocassette 15 minutes before. [sentence as heard]

He defended 14 months of effort and sacrifices despite the threats of the [word indistinct]. He has served his country and did not want this program that cost him so dearly. [end recording]

He finally commented on the public opinion polls and the degree of popular support his government enjoys.

[Begin San Roman recording] We want approval to call a meeting to determine who supports democracy and who supports a dictatorship. Youths who love democracy, mothers who benefited by the daily glass of milk program and the popular kitchens, peasants, small-scale industrialists, businessmen, and unions would be there, because they all love their democracy. [end recording]

OAS Delegation Confers With Party Leaders

PA2304034592 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The special OAS mission headed by Secretary General Joao Baena Soares on 22 April listened to reports and opinions from different political parties regarding the current situation in Peru. The OAS delegation received a letter from former President Alan Garcia delivered by his wife, Pilar Nores. The group also

had lunch with media directors, who gave their opinions regarding Peruvian media developments.

Continuing their tight schedule, the OAS mission initiated its activities at 0900 by meeting with Change 90 representatives, headed by Secretary General Andres Reggiardo. Every half hour they met with representatives of those political parties that had signed up for 22 April. Sode [Solidarity and Democracy Movement] representatives, led by Manuel Moreyra, were the next to be received by Joao Baena Soares and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell.

[Moreyra] "The Sode's viewpoint is the central point here. We are questioning if a coup d'etat that took place through an unusual procedure can be legitimized. Our position is that this is impossible and, therefore, Mr. Maximo San Roman is president. That is why we are going to show our complete willingness to do anything necessary to restore constitutional order in Peru."

Members of United Left [IU] said the same. They were headed by Gustavo Mohome and were the next to meet with the OAS delegation. IU members proposed the installation of a constituent assembly that would draft the necessary constitutional reforms within a certain period of time.

[Mohome] "We believe a constituent assembly should be convened to draft any constitutional reforms that may be needed. General elections can be held later to fill executive and legislative branch positions in April 1993. A representative of regional governments accompanied us. He talked about the problems the regional governments face and asked for a special hearing for regional presidents, which has been taken into account by the OAS delegation."

The next to meet with the OAS mission were representatives of the Independent Moralization Front, led by Fernando Olivera. They explained their position regarding the national emergency and reconstruction government.

At around 1100 former President Fernando Belaunde Terry, representing the Popular Action Party, accompanied by Eduardo del Solar, were received at the third floor suite of the Sheraton Hotel, where the meetings were held. During the meeting, Belaunde explained to the OAS delegates that it is possible to make the constitutional amendments announced by Fujimori within a constitutional framework.

[Belaunde] "We need to return to the constitutional path as soon as possible. As for the amendments, many of which are being studied by congressional commissions, they should be approved as soon as possible. If changes need to be made, they should be done and they should be discussed, but in strict compliance with constitutional norms.

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct]

[Belaunde] "The Congress has a mandate. The Congress can reduce that mandate by means of a decision, a constitutional change that could be made between August 1992 and August 1993. The Congress can pass a constitutional amendment to reduce the mandate. I have always thought this was a good idea. The Congress can make modifications to the legislative period. All of this is possible."

Finally, Liberty Movement members met with the OAS delegation. At the end of the meeting, Luis Bustamante, the leader of this political group, explained what they had discussed with the OAS mission. He said Mario Vargas Llosa, the founder of the movement, will not return to Peru for the time being to head an opposition movement as had been announced.

[Bustamante] "We have come to explain that the Liberty Movement's position is one of respect for Peru's democratic institutions and the Constitution. This does not mean, however, that it does not need reforms, but that these changes should be made in accordance with the Constitution. The Constitution may only be revised according to what is stipulated in its own articles."

Meets Church, Labor Leaders

PA2304040292 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 22 April the OAS mission, made up of Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell, left the Sheraton Hotel to meet with church representatives. As he was leaving the building, Gros Espiell told us of the mission's optimism:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Reporter] Mr. Ambassador, could you assess this second day of talks?

[Gros Espiell] [Words indistinct]

[Reporter] Was the meeting positive?

[Gros Espiell] [Words indistinct]

[Reporter] When will you have a final report for the Peruvian people?

[Gros Espiell] Our work ends on 23 April.

[Reporter] Your work ends on 23 April. Have your efforts been positive so far? Have you encountered any problems?

[Gros Espiell] [Words indistinct]

[Reporter] Where are you headed now? [end recording]

On arrival at the San Isidro neighborhood residence of Monsignor Augusto Vargas Alzamora, Catholic Church primate, the OAS mission met privately with Bishops' Conference President Msgr. Jose Dammert Bellido, Conference Secretary Miguel Cabrejos, and other church

representatives. The meeting lasted more than 30 minutes. Leaving the meeting, the Uruguayan foreign minister described the dialogue with church representatives as being fruitful and added that he spoke with Alan Garcia over the telephone:

[Begin Gros Espiell recording] You must understand that at this moment I cannot reveal details of our dialogue. I would like to say that we exchanged views with a very intelligent and useful interlocutor.

[Unidentified Reporter] What is the outcome of your work?

[Gros Espiell] We are still working; this is no time to give final results.

[Reporter] Did you meet with former President Alan Garcia?

[Gros Espiell] I spoke to him over the telephone on 22 April. [end recording]

Hours later at the Sheraton Hotel the OAS mission met with Pedro Huillca and Isidoro Gamarra, national leaders of the General Confederation of Peruvian Workers. Leaders of the Education Workers' Trade Union, headed by Secretary General Jose Ramos, also arrived. Labor leaders Olmedo Oris Melgar and Soledad Lozano, who had been arrested on 5 April, also arrived.

On the evening of 22 April, the OAS mission met with Roger Caceres Velasquez, leader of the Workers and Peasants National Front, and former Comptroller General Luz Aurea Saenz.

Opposition Leaders Reject Fujimori's Schedule

PA2304000492 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1132 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Lima, 22 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Political leaders of Maximo San Roman's proclaimed constitutional government on 22 April rejected the legal and democratic validity of the schedule for elections to restore Peru's institutions as announced by President Alberto Fujimori.

The Peruvian president called for two referendums in July and November to amend the Constitution and restructure the legislative and judicial branches.

"It is a trick to consolidate the dictatorship and remain in power," said Cesar Barrera, first vice president of the dissolved Chamber of Deputies, who was sworn in on 21 April as constitutional president of the dissolved Congress.

Barrera said that, because of the isolation imposed by the international financial and diplomatic communities, Fujimori's regime, "like all other de facto regimes, resorts to amendments and plebiscites which are really intended to silence the people and the opposition."

Senator Armando Villanueva, leader of the social democratic American Popular Revolutionary Alliance party, the main opposition force, said the schedule for restoring democracy "is not admissible under any point of view," since Fujimori's government "has placed itself outside of the law and the Constitution."

Alberto Ruiz Eldredge, a well-known constitutional lawyer, said that the proposal from the president of the national emergency and reconstruction government has been a response to the OAS mission that is in Lima.

"He (Fujimori) says that his government seeks to go directly to the people, but his real objective is to put a democratic face on a dictatorship," he noted.

Ruiz Eldredge, vice president of the International Association of Jurists, questioned Fujimori's invoking the principle of popular self-determination to "impose the decision of a de facto government."

Barrera and Villanueva reiterated their decision to "struggle to reestablish constitutional order" in the country, in keeping with the 1979 Constitution, which the Fujimori regime wants to modify to build "a truly modern and democratic state." [passage omitted]

Opposition Leaders Support 'Legal Presidency'

PA2204183692 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Interview with Felipe Osterling, president of the dissolved Senate, and former President Fernando Belaunde Terry, by unidentified reporters following the swearing in of Maximo San Roman as "constitutional president" of Peru, in Lima on 22 April—recorded]

[Text] [Osterling] The step we have taken is the appropriate constitutional step. This means that Maximo San Roman assumes the legal presidency of Peru.

[Reporter] In his speech, San Roman asked the Congress to grant him a period of 180 days, a period that would allow him to work and to organize his government programs.

[Osterling] We must meet with him to see what he needs. We will give him all the support and time that he may require.

[Reporter] Do you plan to grant San Roman special powers to allow him to govern?

[Osterling] To allow him to govern? Evidently yes. If he wants us to grant him powers—in the same way that we granted powers to the person who was president of Peru when it was necessary to do so—of course we will.

[Reporter] During his message San Roman talked about certain powers, about certain prerogatives that he will be requesting from the Congress, to allow him to govern freely for a certain amount of time. Is the Congress willing to [word indistinct] that program?

[Osterling] Yes. This is a unanimous decision by all legislators, a unanimous decision by all the political forces represented in the Congress. We have reached a

decision to grant him some delegated [delegada] power with regard to some central issues so that—through a legislative decree—President San Roman and his cabinet may dictate the norms required in Peru.

[Belaunde] Now the country knows the situation. There is one government that presently is operating as a de facto government, and there is a legal government.

[Reporter] But do you know of any concrete measure to be taken by the government in conjunction with the political parties?

[Belaunde] No, I do not. We are here to do our constitutional duty.

[Reporter] What role will the Popular Action Party be playing. Will it cooperate with San Roman's government?

[Belaunde] We will always do so in the most disinterested fashion, in an absolutely disinterested fashion.

[Reporter] What do you think about the U.S. Government recognizing Fujimori as president?

[Belaunde] Well, I believe that recognition is very relative. Such recognition is really a standard operating procedure if you will, because it is just the case of a State Department spokesman saying something with regard to all this. However, the situation has changed. San Roman's swearing in ceremony has changed the situation.

Change 90 Reaffirms Support for Fujimori

PA2204193392 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1813 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Andres Reyardo, Change 90 secretary general, has reaffirmed the party's full support for Alberto Fujimori's national emergency and reconstruction government. Reyardo said the party does not recognize Maximo San Roman as constitutional president. Regarding San Roman's swearing in at the Bar Association, Reyardo said the association is a clique formed by traditional parties, which he described as wolves in sheeps' garb.

Reyardo made these remarks after meeting with OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares and Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell. The meeting, which lasted 35 minutes, was also attended by Health Minister Victor Paredes Guerra.

APRA Denies Existence of 'Phillips Command'

PY2204115892 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 10 Apr 92 p 5

[Text] Armando Villanueva del Campo, a leader of the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance [APRA], yesterday stated that no "Phillips Command" has been created within the APRA branch in Ancash to take part in armed attacks or violent retaliatory actions against government officials.

Speaking by telephone to LA REPUBLICA, Villanueva said: "In the name of my party, I categorically state that this charge is a lie in a war that lends itself to lies."

Villanueva explained that Phillips was an APRA martyr in Ancash during the early years of the APRA party, adding that no one has sought to form a violent commando group bearing his name. He confirmed that the APRA would in no way authorize it.

Central Reserve Bank President Refuses To Resign

PA2204183592 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Jorge Chavez Alvarez, Central Reserve Bank [BCR] president, has announced that he definitely plans to continue in his post. Chavez Alvarez added that the president of the Republic demanded that he and the entire board of directors of the bank present their resignations. The BCR president pointed out that it would be a serious and irresponsible mistake to resign given the grave situation in the country.

[Begin recording] [Chavez] Yesterday I met with him [Fujimori] and his prime minister. The president told me he wanted the BCR board of directors to resign en masse. I told him I would speak with the other directors. Three directors have already resigned for personal reasons, but there are four others, including myself, who have not resigned. I also told him it was not advisable at this time to make any changes in the BCR because the credibility of the overall economic program of the government would be affected in the eyes of the international community, should these changes take place. I also said it is necessary to maintain the economic program that has been implemented by this administration with such great effort.

[Reporter] Did President Fujimori insist on your resignation, even after you gave him this explanation?

[Chavez] Yes, and he told me that the members of his cabinet disagree with the monetary policy being implemented by the BCR. It is normal for the members of the cabinet to disagree with the BCR policy. The reason the BCR is autonomous is so that it can implement its policy. This is the case with all central banks of the world that are autonomous; it is to prevent the governments from making bad use of the international reserves of the country and from issuing currency. [end recording]

Venezuela

Deputies Approve Constitutional Amendments Draft

PA2304021592 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Report by Milagros Martinez]

[Text] On 22 April the Chamber of Deputies approved in the first debate the bill to amend the Constitution. The decision came following remarks by 40 speakers.

That means the bill is to be forwarded to the special commission chaired by Deputy Luis Enrique Oberto, so that a report for the second debate can be prepared, based on the proposals and comments made on the bill. The report will be ready in two or three weeks. The work will begin immediately through the appointed subcommissions: the Political Reform Subcommission, Judicial Reform Subcommission, Basic Principles Subcommission, and the State Territory Reorganization and Jurisdiction Transfer Subcommission.

[Begin recording, Deputy Ibrahim Sanchez, Chamber of Deputies vice president] All the sectors represented here have made the political commitment to push ahead with the work promptly, efficiently, and seriously. Most of all, we want the country to feel we are truly committed to democratic renewal through this process to amend the Constitution. [end recording]

Deputy Ramon Guillermo Aveledo, deputy chief of the Social Christian Party bloc, proposed that military personnel of all ranks and categories, on active duty or in the reserves, should vote in the referendum to amend the Constitution that will be held soon.

The amendment proposal consists of two articles and one paragraph to be added to Article 132 of the Constitution. It is worth noting the four subcommissions will study the bill and submit it for the second debate.

Coup Leaders Capture Prosecutors, Sign Agreement

PA2304011592 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2230 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Caracas, 22 Apr (DPA)—The military leaders responsible for the thwarted coup against Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez took prosecutors in their cases hostage in the prisons where they are confined, then signed an agreement with them, after which they ended their act of force.

The event was reported on the front pages of Caracas newspapers after several weeks of virtual silence about the situation of the subversive group, led by Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chavez, who is in Los Valles del Tuy prison in southeastern Caracas.

According to newspaper reports, the incident occurred on the night of 20 to 21 April and ended when the three military prosecutors of the permanent courts martial, who went to the prison to perform their judicial functions, agreed to the prisoners' demands that their living conditions be improved and hospital treatment be arranged.

The document signed by the two parties notes the precarious health conditions (lack of adequate medical assistance for prisoners), states the demand that a telephone be installed, relays charges that relatives are being mistreated, and reports the loss of a rifle. According to Commander Chavez, this situation confirms "the theory that there are movements aimed at eliminating us."

The agreement includes a request by the prisoners that a copy of said agreement be sent to the Defense Ministry because Defense Minister General Fernando Ochoa Antich was involved directly, and to the Prosecutor General of the Republic. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Explains Judge's Removal

PA2304003492 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Defense Minister General Fernando Ochoa Antich explained on 21 April that Virginia Contreras, 10th penal judge of Sucre District, was removed from her post because of an internal judicial problem—that she had not acted to fill posts applied for two weeks ago—and not because she had allegedly issued an arrest warrant against the defense minister. Gen. Ochoa Antich also noted that his ministry has never denied the possibility of filing an amparo for the military officers linked to the 4 February attempted coup. We have here Gen. Ochoa Antich's comments.

[Begin recording] [Ochoa Antich] The Defense Ministry has never denied the appeal of amparo.

[Unidentified reporter] Reportedly you are violating their right to file an appeal of amparo.

[Ochoa Antich] Judge Contreras said the rights of the detained military officers were being denied. I have given their lawyers access to Llare Penitentiary. What Judge Contreras did say is that I had granted permission for visits three times a week, while she noted that permission should be granted for daily visits, from 0800 to 1200 and from 1400 to 1800. I gladly agreed to the judge's request. Therefore, there is not a problem with the amparo ....

[Reporter, interrupting] What is going to happen now? What are you going to do now? Judge Contreras is very bold; she is talking about an arrest warrant that was held back by her dismissal.

[Ochoa Antich] I do not believe that I have given any reason through any of my actions for an arrest warrant to be issued against me. I have total respect for the state of law and for the judiciary, with which I have the best relations. [end recording]

COPEI Leader Supports Perez on Peru Stand

PA2204214192 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Eduardo Fernandez reiterated on 21 April his support for the stand on the Peruvian situation adopted by President Carlos Andres Perez. The Social Christian Party [COPEI] leader said he feels that Venezuela had to

take a very firm stand, particularly because the OAS system was not as effective as most people expected.

After meeting on 21 April with President Carlos Andres Perez, COPEI Secretary General Eduardo Fernandez spoke with reporters about the Peruvian situation. He said he does not believe Peru is destined to have a military dictatorship, as the people are well aware of the nefarious consequences of previous de facto regimes in that sister republic.

As for our country, the COPEI leader reiterated once again the need for a national agreement that will enable us to solve our problems. To that effect, he announced that during next weekend's National Directorate meeting of his party, he will seek definite support to promote a national agreement as soon as possible.

[Begin recording] [Fernandez] I will ask the National Directorate if I have the party's support for promoting a national agreement, or if the party prefers a different leadership. I am speaking quite frankly. It makes sense that I lead the party as long as the party supports me in promoting a national agreement that will enable us to solve our problems.

[Reporter] What will you do if you do not receive support for that proposal?

[Fernandez] I trust I will receive that support, and I have absolute faith that the policy I am promoting is in line with the best COPEI traditions. [end recording]

Fernandez told reporters that he had suggested President Carlos Andres Perez adopt drastic measures to improve the public expenditure situation and halt the squandering in state enterprises that have a deficit.

Police in Merida Begin Strike for Pay Increase

PA2304044492 Paris AFP in Spanish 2024 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] Merida, Venezuela, 22 Apr (AFP)—Various sources told AFP that hundreds of policemen, demanding wage increases, declared an indefinite strike on 22 April in Merida, a university city located 500 km southwest of Caracas. The policemen have refused to go on patrol and prevented the arrival of replacement officers from other zones.

The policemen, who earn a minimum wage of $140, are demanding an increase that would raise their monthly salaries to $245, the payment of overdue bonuses, and better treatment from officers.

Merida, located in the Venezuelan Andean mountains, has frequently been the site of violent student riots. No disturbances or acts of vandalism were reported.